

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A disk cartridge comprising:
 - a casing body, made of a pair of half shells, for rotatably housing a disk-shaped recording medium therein;
 - a shutter made of a first slider and a shutter plate, wherein the first slider is slidable in both rightward and leftward directions with respect to a neutral position in which a window, provided in the casing body, through which a drive shaft is inserted and through which a head is allowed to access, is closed, and wherein the casing body has a first guide groove which extends in a direction in which the shutter is opened and closed, and which is formed on a front edge side of one of surfaces of the casing body and is exposed to an outside of the casing body;
 - a first engagement protrusion and a second engagement protrusion which are formed on both side edge portions of an inner surface of the first slider so as to be slidably engaged with the first guide groove;
 - a pair of second sliders which are slidably engaged with the first guide groove outside the first engagement protrusion and the second engagement protrusion in the first guide groove;
 - a spring means for connecting the pair of second sliders and for pulling them to each other; and
 - a stopper which is projectingly provided on the casing body so as to abut against an inner surface of each of the pair of second sliders,

wherein the first guide groove is formed between an upper surface of a front edge wall of one of the pair of half shells and a lower surface of a front edge wall of the other thereof, along the front edge wall,

wherein the casing body has, at a central portion of the front edge, a cutout portion which is formed by cutting out the front edge wall of the other thereof and which extends up to the upper surface of the front edge wall of the one thereof, and

wherein the first slider and the shutter are mounted on the casing body by inserting the first engagement protrusion and the second engagement protrusion formed on the first slider into the first guide groove through the cutout portion.

2. (original) The disk cartridge of claim 1, wherein the cutout portion is formed generally at a center of the central portion of the front edge of the casing body.

3. (original) The disk cartridge of claim 1, wherein a plate-shaped protrusion is formed on an opposite inner surface to the inner surface of the first slider on which the first engagement protrusion and the second engagement protrusion are formed, and

wherein there is formed a pair of second guide grooves on the other of surfaces of the casing body in the both rightward and leftward directions so as to be parallel to the first guide groove, in which the second guide grooves engage and guide the plate-shaped protrusion.

4. (original) The disk cartridge of claim 1, wherein the first engagement protrusion and the second engagement protrusion are integrated with each other by an extension plate that extends therebetween.

5. (original) The disk cartridge of claim 1, wherein the front edge wall of the other of the pair of half shells extends with its being bent from a front edge of a wall portion which continuously extends throughout an entire width of the other thereof, and

wherein the cutout portion is made by cutting out part of the front edge wall.

6. (currently amended) A disk cartridge comprising:

a casing body, made of a pair of half shells, for rotatably housing a disk-shaped recording medium therein;

a shutter which is slidable in both rightward and leftward directions with respect to a neutral position in which a window, provided in the casing body, through which a drive shaft is inserted and through which a head is allowed to access, is closed, and wherein the casing body has a first guide groove which extends in a direction in which the shutter is opened and closed, and which is formed on a front edge side of one of surfaces of the casing body and is exposed to an outside of the casing body;

a first engagement protrusion and a second engagement protrusion which are formed on both side edge portions of an inner surface of the shutter so as to be slidably engaged with the first guide groove;

a pair of second sliders which are slidably engaged with the first guide groove outside the first engagement protrusion and the second engagement protrusion in the first guide groove;

a spring means for connecting the pair of second sliders and for pulling them to each other; and

a stopper which is projectingly provided on the casing body so as to abut against an inner surface of each of the pair of second sliders,

wherein the first guide groove is formed between an upper surface of a front edge wall of one of the pair of half shells and a lower surface of a front edge wall of the other thereof, along the front edge wall;

wherein the casing body has, at a central portion of the front edge, a cutout portion which is formed by cutting out the front edge wall of the other thereof and which extends up to the upper surface of the front edge wall of the one thereof, and

wherein the shutter is mounted on the casing body by inserting the first engagement protrusion and the second engagement protrusion formed on the shutter into the first guide groove through the cutout portion.

7. (original) The disk cartridge of claim 6, wherein the cutout portion is formed generally at a center of the central portion of the front edge of the casing body.

8. (original) The disk cartridge of claim 6, wherein a plate-shaped protrusion is formed on an opposite inner surface to the inner surface of the shutter on which the first engagement protrusion and the second engagement protrusion are formed, and

wherein there is formed a pair of second guide grooves on the other of surfaces of the casing body in the both rightward and leftward directions so as to be parallel to the first guide groove, in which the second guide grooves engage and guide the plate-shaped protrusion.

9. (original) The disk cartridge of claim 6, wherein the first engagement protrusion and the second engagement protrusion are integrated with each other by an extension plate that extends therebetween.

10. (original) The disk cartridge of claim 6, wherein the front edge wall of the other of the pair of half shells extends with its being bent from a front edge of a wall portion which continuously extends throughout an entire width of the other thereof, and

wherein the cutout portion is made by cutting out part of the front edge wall.